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THE JOHN BROWN LETTERS.

FOUND IN THE VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY IN 1901.

(CONCLUDED.)

[The character of the letters in this collection is so unvaried that it is thought that those which have now been published, and which have been taken without selection, give all that is of value. Therefore publication is concluded with this issue. The remaining copies from the originals in the State Library are preserved among the collections of this Society.]

G. LYMAN DWIGHT TO JOHN BROWN.

[Envelôpe] [MS.] Capt. John Brown, Charlestown, Jefferson Co., Virginia.

[Endorsed] G. Lyman Dwight. Autograph. Sympathy.

Providence, Rhode Island, November 7, 1859.

Capt. John Brown:

Dear Sir,—Pardon me a stranger for intruding thus upon you, but a great desire for your autograph drives me to this expediency to obtain it. Forgive a fellow-creature. I am desirous because I feel that already your name has become in American history

One of the few, the immortal names, that were not born to die.

You have many a friend, who honours and respects you, and heartily wishes you God's blessing.

Again I sincerely beg your pardon if I have done wrong. I remain,

Yours Sincerely,

G. LYMAN DWIGHT.

WIL. ——— TO JOHN BROWN.

[Envelope] [MS.] John Brown, prisoner, Charleston, Va.
deliver before the execution. private.

[Endorsed] Rescue, ide.

New York, Nov. 29, '59.

John Brown:

Dear Sir,—Don't give up all hopes of liberation for I have collected 2,500 men all in arms and they have been quietly entering the town for some time past and on the 1st at 12 o'clock at M we will make an attack and endeavor to release you.

Your Obedient Servant,

WIL. ———.

W. P. SMITH TO ANDREW HUNTER.

[Endorsed] W. P. Smith, Nov., 1859.

[Printed heading to paper] Master of Transportation's Office,
Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Co.

Baltimore, Novem. 12, 1859.

Hon. Andrew Hunter, Charlestown, Va.

Dear Sir,—The President has handed me your letter of 10th inst. concerning precautions against an expected attempt at rescue of the State prisoners at Charlestown.

He desires me to say to you for him that the matter will receive our most thorough attention, and that a special messenger will at once pass over our road discreetly advising agents and conductors to be fully alert in detecting and advising you of suspicious parties.

He further says that we have and shall continue to decline all requests looking to excursions or reduction of fare to parties proposing to attend the execution—offers for which have been made from Boston and elsewhere. We will at once arrange to advise you by Express from H. Ferry should occasion require.

Very Respy & truly Yours,

W. P. SMITH, M. of T.

THOMAS EARLE TO JOHN BROWN.

[Envelope] [MS.] Captain John Brown, Charlestown, Jefferson County, Virginia. Care of the Jailer.

[Endorsed] Thos. Earle. Villainous.

Worcester, Massachusetts,

Worcester, Nov. 13th, 1859.

Captain John Brown:

Dear friend,—Since the outbreak at Harpers Ferry by you and your little band which so terribly alarmed the slave power, you have been continually before me, and I have had cause many times in the deep meditations of my soul to bless God, that he had given to the slave such a noble old hero and saint, as you have proved yourself to be. And I shall never forget the evening, at our City hall, at a meeting which you addressed, when I had the pleasure of taking *your hand*, your noble right arm which for so long a time and so steadily has battled for freedom. At that same Hall not many months before our freedom loving citizens raised Ten thousand dollars for the redemption of *Kansas*—which was but a *trifle* in comparison with the noble work which you with your brave company accomplished. To your fearless and noble spirit more than to all other means—do we owe the salvation of *Kansas*—from the clutches of the slave power. But it seems that you were not satisfied with that brave and noble effort, but being filled with the spirit of self sacrifice for the cause of suffering humanity, have rushed boldly into the midst of their wicked institutions, and made yourself a willing Martyr for the cause of the slave, and I trust that you may have strength given you from God to bear without a murmur, whatever punishment may be inflicted upon you. And as Emerson said in a lecture of his in Boston the other night in referring to you “the Saint whose fate yet hangs in suspense, but whose Martyrdom if it shall be perfected will make the gallows as glorious as the Cross.”

You dear old man have the sympathy of all the friends of humanity. And if the gallows is to be your fate, your name will be cannonized to Liberty, and a thousand John Browns will rise to visit judgement upon the slave power. I take great

pleasure in informing you that funds will be raised, for the benefit of your family, and that the (widows) of your noble sons and of Thompson, with your soon to be widow, will be cared for by the friends of freedom, and I shall esteem it a great honor, to do what little I can from my own means and by circulating a subscription paper among the *true* Christians of the North—most commonly called infidels.

I admire your cool, calm and determined spirit, and cannot but feel, that in the end you will receive the glorious reward from the good God, who has been with you thus far of "well done good and faithfull servant thou hast been faithfull over few things I will make thee ruler over many."

With warm and heartfelt sympathy for you and your cause, I am,

Sincerely and truly, Your friend,

THOMAS EARLE.

CHARLES R. LAW TO JOHN BROWN.

[Envelope] [MS.] Mr. John Brown (Prisoner) Charlestown, Virginia. P. M. Please forward.

[Endorsed] Charles R. Law, New York. Fal de ral.

224 Grand Street, N. York.

My Dear Brother:

Thinking that while you are lying in prison under sentence of death, a friendly letter, written in the right spirit, might cheer your heart, is the only Apology for this communication. My Maxim is When Truth, Right, Duty, and Humanity call, never count the Cost, but act conscientiously, Now, and To-day, fearing God alone. My Life, Health, Strength, and all I possess, belongs to my Father in Heaven, and to him only am I accountable for the use I make of them.

Was I in your situation, brother, I think, a kind letter from any human being, rich or poor, black or white, would be welcomed heartily; however simple the words of it might be, you would look at the spirit of them, and judge from that alone. My position in the Social scale of Life is very humble, a poor newspaper Carrier, but if I judge you right, it is as welcome as if it came from the President. Through our Father's help, I

endeavour to let no day pass, without some kind action, and I think that John Brown, who stands at the Portal of the grave, will receive this Cheerfully, & heartily, should our Father permit these lines to reach him. My Brother, my Heart goes with this letter, it is kindly meant, may it be received as such, if it cheers your heart, do not thank the Writer, but thank our Kind Father, who gives one of his children the will and heart to indite it. Face Death like a man, Brother, it is merely the Birth of another life, like a man's taking his outer garments off. Our poor frail bodies are merely the garments that clothe the Immortal Spirit. God is not the dreadful, mysterious Being that men's minds make him out to be, but, a kind, mercifull Father, who watches over his Children, and showers his blessings on them. Let us try to appreciate his kindness, in every thought, word, & action; let us endeavor to do that which is right in his sight. That, in my humble opinion, dear brother, you have tried to do, never mind the World's opinion. You are accountable to your Maker only. In this world we fear three things too much, *Death, The world's opinion, Poverty*. What do they amount to, the Heart, is everything. When my spirit stands before my Maker, he will not ask me What the World thought. I might stand or fall on my own merits. I was born into this beautiful world to think & act for myself, he gave me Mind and Body, capable of doing it; if I do not do it the world won't save me. No, a thousand times, No.

You have one great Consolation, Brother, you endeavoured to do what you believed your duty. Your father in Heaven, is your judge, rest, assured, he is a kind & merciful one. God is every where, he is with you in your captivity, although you do not see him. May his spirit be with you, at the place of execution, & strengthen you. Your, Death, will accomplish more for Humanity, of course I mean should your father see fit for that to take place, than men can have any idea of, remember Our Father, governs this world, the little bird, or the leaf falls not, to the ground, unless with our Father's Will. Pray to our Father, unceasingly, Brother, for the right spirit; Thank and praise him, for having given thee a brave, courageous heart, to dare, to risk your life for what you conscientiously believed to be

right. Look at, in a right spirit brother. Life itself is a privilege. Existence alone is happiness. Thousands would give their right hand to stand in John Brown's place. The ant, the poor worm, every living thing has each, its appointed work to fulfill, and shall Man, who has an immortal soul, do nothing in the world, but eat, drink, & sleep. Life, Health, & Strength is given us for some purpose, *to do good*, but we must ask our father for strength, to do it. Will, Courage, & above all Faith, in his Love & Kindness. May this letter, brother, be but one of hundreds, that reaches you. I consider your late unfortunate attempt to do good, very injudicious, in its execution, but men cannot, see what, events may spring from it, for the great cause of Human Freedom; but, God rules Events, brother, & let us leave it in his hands. Rest, assured all will come out right. Nothing takes place on this beautiful globe, contrary to our Father's Will. Let us be thankful for all his mercies. I feel grateful for the privilege of writing this letter, & and that it may cheer your heart, is my earnest prayer. If you have done wrong, while you sincerely believed you were acting right, Our Father is Love & Mercy itself. God gave me no power or authority to judge my Brother. I find that true happiness consists in helping our brethren. Why Brother, I am amply rewarded for writing these lines, it does my heart good, it warms it. The Law of growth is Exercise, and to warm our hearts, we must use & exercise them. Should our Father prevent this letter from reaching you, at all events, you daily get my prayers, not lip service merely, but from the heart. Dear Brother, We shall soon meet you, you are only taking an earlier train for your Father's house. We all have to travel on that train of Cars. Our seats are all engaged, but we know not, when our Names shall be called to take seats. We all stand on the Brink of the grave. Before this letter reaches its destination, I may be called to take my seat, & actually reach our Father's house to welcome John Brown, The Brave, The Daring Nobleman of Nature, The Man who dared to die for what he conscientiously believed to be right. Dear Brother, John farewell. Our Father will watch over your dear ones left behind; may this reach & cheer, you while waiting for the Cars, for our Father's House is

the heartfelt wish of an Englishman, but one who claims all mankind, rich or poor, black or white, as his brethren.

CHARLES R. LAW.

I believe, Our Father, would his children, not, to conceal anything. Therefore I put my name in full.

P. S. Remember, our Father's Right arm will support you while in the valley of death. God is with us all, asleep or awake, alive or dead, here, there and everywhere.

[Two verses of "I would not live alway" follow here.]

Surrender* of Virginia to the Parliamentary Commissioners, March, 1651-2.

Contributed by Mr. LOTHROP WITHINGTON, London, Eng.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

(British Museum Library. E 665. 3. page, 1604 to 1607.)

From aboard the Ginny Friggat in Mary-Land, Mar. 24.

That all disposing and over-ruling hand of Providence ordering all things according to the council of his own will hath been pleased to appoint, that in the absence of Captain Dennis and Mr. Stegg (chief commissioners in the design for reducing all the Plantations within the Bay of Chisapiack, to their due obedience to the Commonwealth of England) it should fall upon us to give an account of that work, and of the continued goodness of God who is still pleased to go along with you in all your enterprises, to own you in them, and to crown all your labours and endeavours both at home and abroad, with such unparallel'd success, as a long time hath been, and still is justly to be admired.

Immediately upon the coming in of that Act prohibiting Trade, &c., which came hither about a year since, the Governor began

* See note at end of article.